

REMARKS


This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 16, 2003. Claims 1-7 and 14-17 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 14 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-7 and 14-17 are allowed.

Claims 8013 have been cancelled to render the Office Action's § 102 and § 103 rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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